

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the Application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

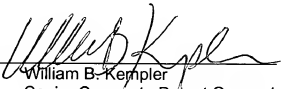
The Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 18, 20 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Bowers et al. The Examiner rejects claims 19, 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Bowers et al. as applied above and further in view of Abeles et al. The Examiner rejects claims 21 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoen in view of Wingo and Bowers et al as applied above and further in view of Duguay. The Examiner has considered Applicant's previous response but it is considered moot in view of the new grounds of the rejection.

In the previous response, the Examiner accepted the Declaration of prior invention under 37 CFR 1.131 and the Examiner has interpreted the e-mail contained therein as the prior Friday 7/17/2000, which is 7/14/2000.

Applicants have determined that the same proofs will support an earlier date than the date claimed in the first Declaration. Accordingly, the same Declaration has been amended to recite the earlier date of the Bowers et al reference and Applicants have once again sworn behind the reference cited by the Examiner. This reference has been utilized in rejecting all the claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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